James Sibree

Pam. Africa - East Madagascar

Central Province of Madagascar

IMERINA DISTRICT COMMITTEE

(Note for Members of the I.R.C. The following statement has been prepared for the Deputation after their visitation of the Stations, for the consideration of the District Committee. It must be clearly understood that it is tentative and provisional only, and has been drawn up to serve as a basis for discussion only The Deputation will gladly welcome criticism and suggestions. For the sake of convenience it has been put in the form of a statement by the District Committee. It is hoped that after full consideration it will be accepted by the Committee with such modifications or additions as may appear to be desirable, and transmitted to the Board as the Committee's proposals for the future policy of the Mission.)

in 1913, 23 July – 13 Oct.

S.I.C. F.L.

INTRODUCTION

The District Committee desires to take advantage of the visit of the Deputation to formulate, for the consideration of the Board some proposals for the future policy of the Mission. The position of the Society's work in Imerina has been passed in review by the Committee in the answers it prepared to the full list of questions sent out before the Deputation arrived in Madagascar. The visit of the Deputation to the various stations has led to a reconsideration of the work of the Mission. The Committee believes that the time is ripe for a concise restatement of its policy for the future

work of the Mission in Imerina and for the making of fresh plans for its development during the next few years. It feels that it will be useful for the Directors and the Missionaries to put on record, for their guidance, the main lines of policy to be followed in the work of the Mission. Any such statement should come up for reconsideration from time to time, so that the declared Policy of the Mission may be adapted to meet changing conditions.

THE MALAGASY CHURCH

The Committee feels that the ultimate aim of the Mission must be the building up of a strong Malagasy Christian Church - a Church so strong, that under the guidance of the Spirit of God in the coming years it may be able to govern itself, support its own ministry and other Christian agencies, and undertake the evangelization of those parts of the Island which remain in darkness. The Committee's object is to build up a Church which shall, in the not distant future, be self-contained and be independent of the assistance of the Missionary Society. To this end it desires to lay its plans for the future development of the work.

Such a conception of its duty necessarily concentrates attention on the training of Leaders of that Church, and the preparation of the best possible human instruments for the building up of the Church and the spread of the Gospel. The Committee feels that no effort can be too great to attract, to train and to

set to work suitable men for this task - men called of God to be His ministers in the Malagasy Church.

The finding out of such men and their equipment for service involves questions of their preparatory educational training, their special theological education, and their adequate support when their training is at an end.

The first and last of these questions will be dealt with later in this statement. The Committee proposes to consider the position and needs of the Theological College in Tananarive.

THE UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The College is the key of the situation. The great and urgent need of the Mission at the present moment is the provision of a truly consecrated and adequately trained Native Christian Ministry. The Committee feels that it need not remind the Directors of the great measure of success which has attended the work of the College for upwards of 40 years, during which period several hundreds of young men have passed through its classes. Most of them are now serving the Churches in different parts of the Field. Nor is it necessary to refer to the recent union with the F.F.M.A. in theological training.

But great as has been the success which has attended the work of the College in the past, there are some respects in which it has failed to meet the needs of the situation. The number of men who have passed through its course is quite inadequate for the supply

of the numerous churches which would be prepared to support, either entirely or in a large measure, properly trained Pastors. It is a remarkable fact that for many years past not a single man from Tananarive itself has been attracted to the College. All the students have come from the country Churches. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of an adequately trained ministry in these days in Madagascar. The active propaganda of agnosticism, and the unsympathetic, not to say hostile, attitude of those in authority to the work of Christian Missions, make it an urgent necessity that the native leaders of the Christian Church should be properly equipped for their duties and be competent to present, when and where necessary, the case for Christianity.

All these considerations point to the importance of strengthening the work of the College, and enlarging its operations, and attracting the best men into the ranks of its students.

With regard to the European staff of the College, the Committe would urge upon the Directors the importance of forthwith filling up one of the vacancies in the Missionary Staff in Imerina by the appointment of a University graduate - if possible, with a degree in Divinity and some pedagogic training - who would be able to undertake some work at the College. The Committee reminds the Directors that the senior member of the College Staff is advanced in years, and it cannot hope to have his invaluable services for any extended period of work. This fact makes an early appointment an urgent necessity. Moreover, the exigencies of forthcoming furloughs make it very desirable that a new man should be sent out at once.

The present College buildings and Staff are sufficient to provide for the accommodation and instruction of a considerably larger number of students than that at present on the books. But it would be necessary to erect some more students' cottages. There is room on the present site for four more cottages. A pair of cottages costs approximately £ 60 It would be desirable to acquire further land, if possible adjoining the present premises, or in the immediate neighbourhood, for the provision of further cottages. The Committee desires to record its opinion of the great advantages attending a residential college - especially in the opportunity it affords for training the students' wives, and keeping the man under proper supervision. It also believes that it was wisely guided in deciding to keep the College in the Capital with its opportunities for spiritual stimulus and intellectual stimulus and its religious and social advantages.

The Committee thinks it would be well if, from time to time, the Missionaries in charge of districts were to meet the College Committee to review the results of the training given in the College as seen in the actual work amongst the churches of the men who have been trained. It would also be desirable to put a few competent Malagasy on the College Committee.

THE EVANGELIST & the PASTOR.

The Committee would remind the Board that for many years past two different classes of Native Agents have been trained for the

Ministry - the Evangelists and the Pastors. The former have been the agents of, and paid by, the Mission, and have received a better training than the latter and have had charge of a group of country churches. The latter have been the Agents of the Churches and have, for the most part, been in charge of a single Church, by which they have been partly, or wholly, supported. In many cases the Pastors' services are honorary. Speaking generally, all the Evangelists have received some amount of special training, and most of them have passed through the College. With the exception of the Town Pastors in Tananarive, only a small proportion of the Pastors at work in the Mission have received any College training. For some time past it has been the policy of the Committee gradually to reduce the number of Evangelists and increase the number of pastors. This process is still going on, and the Committee is looking forward to the abolition of the evangelists (except perhaps for a time in newly opened districts) and a far more adequate provision of pastors than exists at present. The grouping of small churches under a trained pastor may meet the needs of some districts.

In this connection the Committee would refer to the growing practice of native Christian organisations, such as the Isan Enim Bolana and the Isan Efa Bolana and the Isan Karin Teona, employing and paying from their own funds, evangelists for service in the un evangelised parts of the Island, and in portions of the districts directly connected with the two latter of these organisations.

It is the policy of the Committee to encourage, by all the means in its power, the development of both sides of the activities of these Native organizations.

THE TRAINING of MEN in EUROPE

The Committee would point out to the Board that many of the Malagasy Christian Leaders at present at work in Tananarive have been to Europe and received training there. Most of these men are now in the prime of life. During the last few years, however, very few, if any, native Christians connected with the Mission have been to Europe for training, and the Committee looks forward with apprehension to the time when the present Europe-trained men drop out of the ranks of the active pastorate. Unless some suitable men are sent to Europe for further training in the near future, there will be a great lack of highly trained leaders in the coming years. This question of competent native leadership is one of the mos utmost importance in Madagascar. Two years, or, at least one year, in Europe have proved to be of the greatest advantantage to the men who are now in the most responsible pastorates in Tananarive Great care would have to be exercised in the selection of men to be sent and in their oversight whilst in Europe, but no effort at the present time can be too great to provide highly trained and devote leadership for the Malagasy Church in the coming years. The cost of a man in Europe, including passage money, for one year, would be about £ and for two years about £

The provision for this European training should be definitely recognised as coming within the scope of the work of the Colleges. Some system of bursaries or scholarships might be devised, if funds were forthcoming. It might be possible to obtain some assistance from the leading Malagasy Churches, though, at present, their sense of responsibility for the adequate training of the native ministry is not much developed.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION of LEADERS, other than EVANGELISTS, PASTORS and TEACHERS

The Government restrictions make it almost impossible for the Mission to provide higher education for youths who have passed through its Central Boys' School at Ambatonakanga unless such provision can be made in connection with the Theological College. This School is the outcome of the secular department of the old L.M.S. College as it existed before the French occupation. With this exception, the Society does not provide any facilities for higher education of men other than those who are intending to be evangelists, pastors or teachers. There is a real need for some provision for the higher education of those who may be expected to be the lay leaders of the Malagasy Church in the future. The number of those who would be able to avail themselves of any such provision would, probably, always be limited, but were it possible, in connection with the College, to afford facilities of this kind a great service would be rendered. Any such lay students would attend the College Classes in secular subjects - though there would

Not quite correct.

be no need for them to confine themselves to such subjects. It would, probably, be possible to secure some special courses of instruction for such students in the form of lectures by members of the Missionary Staff in Tananarive and others. Any development of the activities of the College by providing for the needs of suc lay students need not involve any substantial additional cost. Such students might reasonably be expected to contribute the whole or a considerable portion of the extra expense involved.

PASTORS' CLASSES

During the last 4 years the Committee has sought to supplement the defective training of many of the native pastors by the establishment of Pastors' Classes at several centres. These classes for the systematic instruction of pastors have been, on the whole, very successful and have amply repaid all the effort which has been expended upon them. The Committee is of opinion that they should be continued and extended, and that every Pastor, within reasonable reach of the centre where a class is held, should be expected and encouraged to attend it, and that, when necessary, some small financial assistance should be continued to be given to those coming from a distance.

A LIVING WAGE for PASTORS

One of the most difficult problems in the provision of an

efficient native ministry is that of the adequate support of the men when trained. The economic changes which have taken place in Madagascar in recent years have greatly increased the cost of living, for native and foreigner alike. The number of comparatively wellpaid government posts are a constant attraction to the better educated natives. The Malagasy Church is, at present far from realizing the urgent need for the support of an educated native pastorate. The Christians give far more readily and far more generously for the provision of a new church building, a new tower, the re-decoration of the Church, or a harmonium than to the support of the pastorate. The most capable Malagasy Church Leaders in Tananarive only obtain what may be regarded , in any sense, an adequate stipend by undertaking other paid Christian work outside their pastorates, as, for instance, a position on the Staff of the Theological College. These men and others refrain from regarding the native pastorate as a sphere for the life-work of their sons, because of the insufficiency of its remuneration and all the hardship which this entails.

It may be said here also that every one of the younger pastors in the City and its neighbourhood has either a tutor in the College or a teacher in one or other of the High Schools

or by being employed as teachers in one or other of the High Schools.

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R

The Committee has never ceased to press upon the Churches the urgent need for more adequate financial support for the native pastorate. It believes that at the root of the difficulty is the want of more adequately trained men. The pastorate is never likely to become a well-paid profession compared with the secular callings opening before the Malagasy. But the Committee believes that the first step to getting far more support for the

pastorates is the provision of better-trained men. It is of opinion, that in many cases the Churches will be prepared to pay suitable men a living wage. It may be necessary for the Mission to give some temporary help in some cases, but the Committee feels that the Churches should be taught to realize that the proper payment of the pastors is their concern, and it is hopeful that this lesson may be learnt more thoroughly in the coming days.

The Directors are reminded that even now were a large proportion of the pastorates in Madagascar are held by men who have had little or no training and are not paid for their work, and who necessarily devote much of their time to their own business occupations. Such a system does not make for efficiency and not infrequently gives rise to difficulties, owing to the ~~pastorate~~ appointment by the Churches of men to the pastorate for reasons other than their fitness for the office.

S E L F - S U P P O R T

It has been the Committee's practice in the past, to make grants towards the building of new churches. The Malagasy are so ready to incur large expenditure on church buildings, and comparatively, so slow to undertake the support of the pastorate, that the Committee feels that it would be desirable, in the future (except possibly in outlying districts, where the work is in its early stages), to cease to make any grants from the funds of the Society towards church buildings, and it proposes to intimate to the

Malagasy Churches that, in the future, no such grants will be give. It will strengthen the hands of the Committee to have a definite pronouncement from the Directors on this subject.

With a view to encouraging the employment of trained pastors by the Native Churches, the Committee feels that it would be unwise, at present, to cease to make grants in support of the payment of the pastorate. Its practice, hitherto, except in the case of self-supporting churches, has been to make a grant-in-aid towards the salary of a paid pastor. The urgent need for encouraging the Churches to employ and pay trained pastors makes it desirable that the Mission, by all the means within its power, should encourage the Churches to seek the services of a properly trained pastor, and these grants-in-aid will help forward this object. It will, however, be well to make it clear to the Churches that such grants are temporary only, and will be made on a declining scale, and that time must come when the Society will be unable to continue such grants,(except in new districts where work has recently been opens up), and it will strengthen the hands of the Committee if the Directors will state the Society's policy in this matter, so that they can inform the Native Churches accordingly.

Another direction in which the principle of self-support needs to be enforced is, with regard to some contribution from the Churches towards the cost of the theological training in the College of the Pastors. The Native Church requires to be taught that this should be its responsibility. The pastors are in n

peculiar sense the Agents of the Native Church, and it should be encouraged to make some provision for their training.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIVE LEADERSHIP

At the present time most of the strongest and most efficient leaders are to be found in Tananarive (as might be expected) and they are, for the most part, Pastors of the Mother Churches in the City. The Committee feels strongly that the actual work of evangelization in Madagascar will, in the future, more and more fall upon the Native Christians. In an increasing degree the duties of the European Missionary will be confined to supervision of native workers and to the training of Pastors and other Native Agents, until the time comes when the European Staff can be entirely withdrawn, and the Native Church left to bring each successive generation into the Kingdom. For a long time this has been the ultimate aim which the Committee has set before itself. The time has now arrived when a further step forward may be made in this direction. Some re-arrangement of the country districts connected with the town churches will, probably, be necessary in the near future. As hereinafter mentioned, it is possible that arrangements may be made before long for the Society to undertake responsibility for some of the districts to the north-west of the Capital which were handed over to the Paris Missionary Society after the French occupation. Moreover, before many years pass, new arrangements

will have to be made for the superintendence of the Analakely District. The Committee would like to try the experiment of putting the most efficient native worker available in responsible charge of one of the most advanced country districts in Imerina,- associating with him a European Missionary as consultant, but, as far as the Churches and their work are concerned, giving the native full responsible charge. The Committee would propose to make a strong appeal, on the highest lines of corporate sacrifice, to any Church or Institution with which the chosen native leader might be connected, to give him up for this forward step in the development of the Christian Church in Madagascar. Probably, for a time, the Society would have to make some financial provision for such a man, but this could be done out of the salary of the European Missionary which would be saved. Ultimately, the cost might be provided by the Native Churches themselves.

If any such experiment is tried it would be necessary to exercise a very strict supervision over the financial side of the native missionary's duties. A monthly inspection and audit of his books would probably be desirable in the first instance.

The Committee believe that in the future this system of appointing natives in charge of country districts may be extended, until the times comes when the European staff may gradually be withdrawn from the existing centres and concentrated in the Capital for the work of supervision and training, or sent into unoccupied parts to start new work until the time comes when it may be alto-

gether withdrawn.

When such an experiment has been tried and found to have been successful, the Committee would propose to take into careful consideration the whole of its country work, with a view to adopting a definite plan for the gradual withdrawal of the European Missionaries in charge of districts, and the handing over of such districts to Native Superintendents. The Committee feels that it would be an advantage to formulate, as soon as it is in a position to do so, a definite plan with this object in view, so that its efforts may be directed to carrying out such a plan, and adequate notice may be given to the Malagasy Churches and leaders.

THE WORK AHEAD [illegible]

The gradual withdrawal of the European Missionaries from the detailed superintendence of ~~country work~~ capital and nearer districts might make it possible to establish new residential European stations in those parts of the Island which have not been evangelised. The L.M.S. has always played a great part in Madagascar, as elsewhere, in pioneer work, and the Committee trusts that as long as there remains pioneer work to be done the Society may be able to take its share, until the Malagasy Church is strong enough to take the sole responsibility forall the work in the Island. In particular, the Committee is very desirous of occupying the Ibòina (Sòkalàva) district, and setting apart a man for the Bezànozàno. It would rejoice if it became possible to reopen the work in the Antsihànaka.

THE WORK of the PARIS SOCIETY in IMERINA

The Committee has been informed by the Deputation that, in the event of the Directors feeling compelled, for financial reasons, to withdraw from the Society's work in the Betsileo Province, there was reason to believe that the F.M.S. might be able to take over the Society's work in Betsileo if it could be relieved of some of its existing work in Imerina, which it took over from the L.M.S. after the French occupation. The Committee also had before it an earnest appeal from the Betsileo District Committee to the L.D.S. to be prepared so to rearrange its work that, in the contingency above mentioned, it might be able to facilitate such an arrangement by taking over some of the P.M.S. work in Imerina. The Districts in question are those known as - Maharèza, Ambòhibelòma and Miàrinarivo - to the north west of the Capital.

The Committee sincerely trust that the Directors will not find it necessary to give up the Betsileo Mission. It feels strongly that there is still a large opportunity for the Society to carry on work in that Province. If, however, such a course appears to be inevitable, the Committee will gladly do what it can to facilitate any arrangement for the handing over of the Betsileo work to the Paris Society. In the event of the L.M.S. withdrawing from Betsileo the Committee is strongly of opinion that the best course would be, to transfer the work there to the Paris Society, and it would, therefore, gladly facilitate the necessary arrangements. The

Committee will be prepared to take over, from the Paris Society, the districts in Imerina above referred to, if the present vacancies in the Imerina Staff are filled. The taking over of these districts would involve some re-arrangement of the Society's country districts in Imerina, and if the Board is compelled to give the Betsileo work to the Paris Society, the Committee will be prepared carefully to re-consider its present arrangement for country work in Imerina with a view to becoming responsible for the supervision of the territory handed back to the Society by the F.M.S. In this connection the Committee has in view the possibility above suggested, of one of the more advanced country districts being placed under the superintendency of a Malagasy. It may be possible also, to make some arrangement with the F.F.M.A. to take charge of a portion of these districts adjoining their territory.

E D U C A T I O N

With deep regret and great reluctance, the Committee has come to the conclusion that, under the present French Administration, it is not possible to look forward to any large development of the Elementary Educational work of the Mission, and that there is no hope of the former position of the Mission in educational matters, being re-established. It seems to be the deliberate policy of the French Government to restrict, in every possible way, the education formerly given by the Missionary Societies. Even were large funds available for the purpose, it is unlikely that the Government would permit their expenditure, and any attempt largely to increase the

elementary educational work of the Mission would probably lead to further repressive measures on the part of the Government.

In these circumstances it seems useless to plan for any considerable extension of elementary education work. The Committee feels that the policy of the Mission in educational matters should be, zealously to conserve all the educational work at present being carried on, and to miss no opportunity of extending it wherever such extension may be possible. It is of great importance to maintain the three High Schools in the Capital in a state of the highest possible efficiency, and no effort should be spared to accomplish this end. It may be possible, as pointed out above, to do something in the direction of a higher education for Malagasy leaders at the Theological College, but, with this exception, it seems to be hopeless to expect any further development of secondary or higher education in connection with the Mission.

HOSTEL for BOYS.

The Directors will remember that the establishment of the Residential Theological College at Ambohipotsy, in 1910, involved the giving up of the Boys' Home, which had been carried on there since 1867. At the time of the change, there were about 50 boys in the Home. Some of the Missionaries in the Capital took charge of a number of these boys, but such arrangements can only be regarded as provisional and temporary. The need of a Hostel for boys from the country, who are temporarily residing in the Capital

for educational work, is very great, and it would be an immense advantage to the Mission as a whole, if it were possible to provide a Hostel for such boys. Such a Hostel would be under the superintendence of a missionary, and would be entirely, or almost entirely self-supporting. All that would be required would be funds to erect the necessary building. It would not be necessary to purchase additional land. The Committee appeal to the Directors to make a grant for this purpose, if possible. The sum required would be from £ 500 to £ 600 . The present home at Amparibe for boys attending the High School, under Malagasy superintendence, does not by any means supply the needs of the Mission in this direction.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

When M. Augagneur struck so severe a blow at the Elementary Educational work of the Mission, in November 1906, the Committee strove to mitigate the effects of his action on the missionary side of elementary educational work, by largely developing the work of Sunday Schools, and the establishment of Scripture classes on week days. The Committee rejoice to know that their efforts in this direction have met with great success. The numbers attending Sunday Schools have practically doubled, and the week-day Scripture classes are extending in all directions. The system of Sunday School examinations has been gradually developed and is well organ

ised throughout the Missions, used and has done much to increase the efficiency of the Bible instruction given. The Committee feels that more can be done in this direction, and it would suggest to the Directors that an attempt should be made by the Society in London to get an annual grant towards Sunday School work in Madagascar from the Sunday School Union. The Committee has supplied the Deputation with facts and figures which should be useful in making any such an application to the Sunday School Union.

Would it be possible to get the Union to appoint a man to undertake the work as his special department of Labour?

The Committee points with satisfaction to the increasing usefulness of the work of the Christian Endeavour Societies. It is its policy to encourage this work by all the means in its power.

WOMEN'S WORK

The Committee reminds the Directors that, apart from the efficient Girls' High Schools in the Capital, there is not much specific work amongst women and girls, except the training that the wives of pastors and evangelists receive at the College, and the work carried on in Miss Craven's Home for Girls. The Committee are glad to be able to state that, generally speaking, the wives of College-trained Evangelists are simply invaluable to their husbands in their work. Moreover, excellent service is being rendered by women in the Churches. The Dorcas Societies are a valuable adjunct to work amongst women. The Committee recognizes that there is not the same need or opportunity for specific work amongst women as exists in the Mission fields in the East. In

Madagascar it would be difficult to develop the work of Bible-women Some little work of this sort is being carried on, and, no doubt, there is scope for further efforts in this direction, but the Committee does not propose to attempt to make definite provision for the training of Bible-women, but would leave any such work to the individual missionaries or their wives as opportunities may present themselves. Moreover, the social conditions in Madagascar would make the supply of suitable women for this work very limited, and there would be many difficulties in employing them in country districts.

There is one direction, however, in which the Committee feels that work amongst girls and women may be extended in the Capital without any great expenditure of money. Miss Craven's Home for Girls is rendering excellent service in character training, and in providing a home for girls from the country attending the High Schools. The accommodation is not adequate for the number of applicants desiring to be admitted to the Home. Its annual cost to the Society is trifling. There are, at present, 30 girls in the Home. There is land available for a building for the accommodation of about 20 girls more. The cost of the building would not be large and the additional annual cost would be very small. The Committee would be very glad to see this additional accommodation provided, and believes that it would prove of great service to the Mission. The Committee would remind the Directors of the great service which Miss Craven's Home has been to the Mission in providing suitable wives for Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.

MEDICAL MISSION

The Committee feels very strongly that it would be a great advantage to the work as a whole that the Medical Mission, hitherto carried on jointly with the F.F.M.A. should be continued. In view of the provision made by the French Administration for medical attendance on the natives, and of the regulations existing with regard to the qualifications of medical men practising in Madagascar, it is unnecessary to contemplate any extension of the Medical Mission. The Malagasy themselves have made very strong representations to the Committee and the Deputation, in favour of the continuance of the Medical Mission, and they would probably be willing to do more than in past years to support it by the payment of increased fees for services rendered, and possibly, to some extent, by direct personal subscriptions. The Committee see no reason why the financial responsibility of the two Missions engaged in carrying on medical work should not be limited to the salary, allowances and houses rent of the doctor; it thinks that the Malagasy might be informed that it is a necessary condition of the continuance of the medical work, that all other expenses should be locally provided.

Apart from the work of the Medical Mission, the Society would remind the Directors of the professional services rendered by the Doctor to the missionary community and to the natives on the Staff of, or resident in, the Missionary Institutions.

A detailed scheme for the continuance of medical work, prepared by the Joint Medical Committee, has been under the consideration of the Committee and will be submitted to the Directors for their approval.

PROVISION of LITERATURE and the PRINTING OFFICE

It is unnecessary for the Committee to remind the Directors of the great service to the Mission rendered by the Missionaries on the Staff in bygone years, in Bible translation and Revision, and the provision of literature. There is still a great need for the preparation and the issue of suitable literature in connection with missionary work in Madagascar, both for the help of those engaged in preaching and teaching and for general use. The Committee are glad to acknowledge the growing capacity of the Malagasy themselves to produce suitable literature, but there yet remains much to be done by the trained European missionary. It would be a great advantage to the Mission if, part, at any rate, of the time of missionaries, specially suited to such work, could be devoted to it.

The Committee points, with satisfaction, to the growing circulation of the Society's periodicals and other literature in the vernacular. Some new machinery and new type will berequired in the near future. The question arises as to how far it is necessary to maintain three Mission Printing Presses in Tananarive, with separate periodicals, but the Committee feels that the time is not

yet ripe for any attempt to amalgamate these Presses. It thinks, however, that it would be well to open negociations for a closer co-operation between them with regard to the output of magazines and periodical and other literature.

The Committee feels that the work of the Colporteurs should be encouraged and developed.

NEW MISSIONARIES

The Committee would remind the Board that it is absolutely necessary that all new missionaries who come out to Madagascar should have a working knowledge of the French language before they leave Europe. This is essential if misunderstanding and friction with the French Government officials are to be avoided. The Committee finds, by experience, that there is far less chance of friction where the Missionary concerned has a competant knowledge of French. As soon as a new missionary arrives on the field, he has to commence the study of the Malagasy language, and it is practically impossible for him to continue any systematic study of the French language. At the same time, the Committee feels strongly that a stay of two or three months only in France is quite inadequate for a working acquisition of the language, and would urge upon the Board the great importance of at least 12 months special preparation in the French language before a new missionary is sent out.

In view of the strict requirements of the French Government with regard to the academic qualifications of Directors of schools carriede on in Madagascar, it would be a very great advantage if, in future, both men and women missionaries sent to Madagascar were University graduates. The French Government recognizes a degree of an English University in lieu of the preliminary educational course which is insisted upon in order to qualify for the position of Director of a school, and the only requirements they make are, that theproposed Director should pass an examination in the French language, and be on the Staff of a school in Madagascar carried on under the direction of a European, for two years. In view of furloughs and break-downs, it is of great importance that there should be members of the Staff of the Missions qualified to become Directors of the Mission High Schools in an emergency. As above mentioned, University graduates can much more easily qualify for such positions than those who do not possess a degree.

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But the necessity for training in Europe is not confined to Pastors and Teachers. It would be a great advantage to the Christian work in Madagascar if a few selected men coul occasionally be sent to Europe, with a view to their becoming writers for the press, editors, authors, and leaders of public opinion in Madagascar.

(to come in after the word "Kingdom" on page 16)

To accomplish this great end it is necessary to develop a strong native leadership for the Malagasy Church. In the opinion of the Committee such a leadership can best be secured if the following principles, which have guided the Committee in the past, are kept in mind and emphasised.

(1) The policy of the Mission is to develop and independent self-supporting Church with a strong, well-educated and consecrated pastorate. As stated above it has been the policy of the Mission to reduce the evangelists and increase the pastors.

(2) As the Churches are provided with suitably trained Pastors, the European staff should be reduced by the grouping of two or more districts under one Missionary who should have the help of a well trained evangelist to conduct preachers' classes ,and training classes for Sunday School Teachers, to inspect Schools and in other ways relieve the Missionary.